

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 02375 111142Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

EUR-12 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02

SAJ-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01

/091 W

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R 110843Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8506

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T SANA 2375

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YS, SA, YE

SUBJ: PDRY - SAUDI AGREEMENTS

1. LOCAL ACCOUNTS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTH YEMEN
INVARIABLY START AND END WITH ACCOUNTS OF INTENSIFYING
RADICALISM, BUT RECENTLY THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN CONTRADICTIONARY
ACCOUNTS OF NEW AGEEMNTS BETWEEN THE SAUDIS AND THE ADEN
REGIME TO (A) RUN THE LARGE LITTLE ADEN REFINERY AS A JOINT
VENTURE, USING SAUDI CRUDE, (B) USE ADEN AS A FREE PORT AND
TRANSIT AREA FOR RE-SHIPMENT TO JIDDA, JIZAN, AND OTHER
BOTTLE-NECKED PORTS ON SAUDI ARABIA'S RED SEA COAST,

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PAGE 02 SANA 02375 111142Z

(C) AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO A PIPELINE TO THE INDIAN

OCEAN AND (D) RETROCEDE WUDAYAH, THE DESERT OUTPOST
HELD BY THE SAUDIS IN 1969 IN RETALIATION FOR PDRY
CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS.

2. IN ADDITION, YAR FORMIN AL-ASNAJ HAS INFORMATION THAT
ABDAL FATTAH ISMAIL, SOVIET LINCH-PIN AND PARTY CHIEF,
HAS LEFT PDRY FOR "MEDICAL TREATMENT". AL-ASNAJ SAYS
THE DEPARTURE IS "STRICTLY TEMPORARY".

3. COMMENT: THESE STORIES, WHICH JEGHMAN AND AHMAD
SAID AS WELL AS AL-ASNAJ APPEAR TO CREDIT, APPARENTLY
HAVE SOUTH YEMENI RATHER THAN SAUDI SOURCES. WE CANNOT
CONFIRM THEM, AND IN FACT DOUBT (C) AND (D) ABOVE,
ALTHOUGH ALL THE ALLEGED AGREEMENTS WOULD BE LOGICAL
AND IMAGINATIVE STEPS TO FOLLOW UP EARLIER SAUDI AGREE-
MENT WITH SALIM RUBAYYA ALI TO RESUME RELATIONS.
THE NEXT STEP IS TO IDENTIFY WHAT PROJECTS WILL GET
SAUDI AID, AND MAKE SURE WESTERN COMPANIES GET THE
CONTRACTS. THIS WILL BEGIN THE WORK OF RESTORING THE
WESTERN PRESENCE AND GIVE THE SAUDIS STILL MORE POINTS
OF CONTACT AND LEVERAGE. ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO (AND
CAN'T) ASSUME THAT THIS SAUDI EFFORT TO SHIFT
PDRY RIGHTWARDS WILL BE RAPID. SOVIETS AND LOCAL
RADICALS ARE ENTRENCHED IN SOUTH YEMEN AS IN FEW OTHER
COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD APPEAR
FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT THAT SAUDIS ARE PUSHING AHEAD,
LOOKING TO THE LONG-TERM AND CONFIDENT THAT, SOMEDAY,
ABDUL FATTAH ISMAIL AND OTHERS WHO LOOK TO SOVIETS FOR
LEADERSHIP, WILL LEAVE THE SCENE FOR GOOD.
RANSOM

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NNN

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